



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/670,089	09/24/2003	Chun Tsun Chen	14603	6325

23676 7590 09/28/2004

SHELDON & MAK, INC
225 SOUTH LAKE AVENUE
9TH FLOOR
PASADENA, CA 91101

EXAMINER

TRAN, THUY V

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2821

DATE MAILED: 09/28/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/670,089

Applicant(s)

CHEN, CHUN TSUN

Examiner

Thuy V. Tran

Art Unit

2821

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 24 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☒ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 01/19/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicant's filing on September 24th, 2003. In virtue of this filing, claims 1-6 are currently presented in the instant application.

Priority

1. Acknowledgment is made of applicant's claim for foreign priority based on an application filed in the United States on 09/24/2003. It is noted, however, that applicant has not filed a certified copy of the foreign application as required by 35 U.S.C. 119(b).

Claim Objections/ Minor Informalities

2. Claims 1 and 6 are objected to because of the following informalities:

Claim 1, line 6, --the-- should be inserted between "that" and "compact"; and

Claim 6, line 4, "an" should be changed to --the--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

4. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Crane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,797).

With respect to claim 1, Crane et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, a compact fluorescent lamp holder comprising (1) a plurality of sockets [12, 14, 16], each of which is adapted to receive a compact fluorescent lamp (see col. 2, lines 21-24), (2) a ballast mechanism [24, 26]

Art Unit: 2821

comprising a ballast circuit [24] therein (see col. 2, lines 27-29), and (3) a plurality of electric wires [30, 32, 34, 36] for electrically connecting the sockets to the ballast circuit [24] so that the contact fluorescent lamps mounted in the sockets will be turned on when an AC power is provided to the ballast circuit (via feed wires 28; see Fig. 1; col. 1, lines 21-28).

With respect to claim 2, Crane et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, that the ballast mechanism [24, 26] comprises a shell [40] (see Fig. 2) for accommodating the ballast circuit therein, and the shell comprises a fastening mechanism (narrow openings shown in [26]; see Fig. 1) for non-electrically fastening the shell to a lighting fixture.

With respect to claim 3, Figs. 1 and 2 of Crane et al. show that the sockets [12, 14, 16] and the ballast mechanism [24, 26] are separate.

With respect to claim 4, Figs. 1 and 2 of Crane et al. show that the sockets [12, 14, 16] and the ballast mechanism [24, 26] are integral (in the housing [10]; see Fig. 2).

With respect to claim 5, Crane et al. discloses, in Figs. 1 and 2, that the shell [40] is a polygonal hollow body, and the fastening mechanism comprises a plurality of slots (narrow openings in [26]; see Fig. 1) at an edge thereof.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crane et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,164,797) in view of Chang (U.S. Patent No. 6,194,840).

With respect to claim 6, Crane et al. discloses all of the claimed subject matter, as expressly recited in claim 1, except that the ballast circuit comprising an EMI circuit, a rectifying and filter circuit, an inverter circuit, and an output circuit, wherein the EMI circuit is configured to be connected with the AC power, the rectifying and filter circuit is connected to the EMI circuit and provides a DC current to the inverter circuit, and the inverter circuit and the output circuit provide a high voltage for activating the compact fluorescent lamps and a high frequency AC current to the compact fluorescent lamps for maintaining their stable lighting.

Chang discloses, in Fig. 2, a ballast circuit comprising an EMI circuit [L1, C1], a rectifying and filter circuit [D1, D2, D3, D4, C3], an inverter circuit [Q1, Q2], and an output circuit [L7, T1, C4], wherein the EMI circuit [L1, C1] is configured to be connected with an AC power, the rectifying and filter circuit [D1, D2, D3, D4, C3] is connected to the EMI circuit and provides a DC current to the inverter circuit [Q1, Q2], and the inverter circuit and the output circuit provide a high voltage for activating the compact fluorescent lamps and a high frequency AC current to the compact fluorescent lamps for maintaining their stable lighting (see col. 3, line 56 – col. 4, line 54).

Such a ballast circuit taught by Chang offers many advantages that its output voltage remains constant even if the lamp or lamps are extinguished or removed, and that it is at low cost (see col. 1, lines 56-61 and col. 2, lines 12-14). Therefore, to modify the compact fluorescent holder of Crane et al. by replacing the ballast of Crane et al. with the one as taught by Chang for the stated purposes would have been deemed obvious to a person skilled in the art of power electronics.

Art Unit: 2821

Citation of relevant prior art

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Fiene (U.S. Patent No. 6,508,567) discloses a fire rated cover for luminaries.

Prior art Altman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,217,190) discloses a lighting assembly for multiple fluorescent lamps.

Prior art Fumin (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,170) discloses a lamp holder.

Prior art Aubrey et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,580,158) discloses a retrofit light fixture.

Prior art Van Wagener et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,260,678) discloses a fluorescent lamp leadless ballast with improved connector.

Prior art Kanarek (U.S. Patent No. 5,226,724) discloses a modular, fluorescent, indirect lighting system.

Prior art Cohen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,177,404) discloses a recessed lighting fixture system.

Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 2821

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Thuy V. Tran
Examiner
Art Unit 2821

09/26/2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy V. Tran', is written over the printed name and title.